

**THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.**

**Serving Our Communities Since 1965**

Deborah Monahan, Executive Director



**Testimony before the Education Committee**

**HB 6506: An Act Concerning State Funded Child Care Facilities**

**March 4, 2013**

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and distinguished members of the Education Committee, my name is Deborah Monahan. I am the Executive Director of the Thames Valley Council for Community Action, serving Southeastern Connecticut. TVCCA has operated the Early Childhood Programs throughout New London County for over 37 years. We currently operate School Readiness programs, Head Start, Early Head Start and State funded Early Childhood programs. Monday through Friday, TVCCA serves over 800 children ranging in ages from 6 weeks to 5 years. TVCCA currently has four facilities funded through the CHEFA child care bond program.

I would like to speak in support of **HB 6506, *An Act Concerning State Funded Child Care Facilities.***

I strongly support **HB 6506** and urge you to pass it because I believe that this bill will stabilize funding to those programs that have a loan agreement with the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority. Currently there are over \$50 million of bonded CHEFA child care centers throughout the state. These programs or agencies entered into 30 year agreements and executed very detailed loan documents that provided this bond funding. The CHEFA agreements inherently assumed continued funding. To subject these programs to any competitive RFP process would be counterproductive to say the least.

Why would we want to put these CHEFA programs in jeopardy of funding if the agencies are meeting the standards established and already operating high quality, NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accredited programs?

In 2003, TVCCA went through an onerous and extensive process as CHEFA transferred two facilities to TVCCA that had gone into default due to the original agency losing its child care funding. The process took many months and cost the State of Connecticut **thousands of dollars** to transfer these facilities as these funds are bonded and the loan documents quite

extensive. Any defaulting on these loans could ultimately affect the overall bond rating of the State of Connecticut. That must be taken very seriously.

HB 6506 would give these CHEFA child care programs the assurance that they need to remain financially stable.

I urge you to act favorable on HB 6506.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony. I am sincerely grateful and would be more than happy to answer any questions.

Deborah Monahan

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